

S-26

c. 1825-1850

BEECHWOOD

Princess Anne vicinity

private

The Beechwood estate was the long-time home of the Waters and Elzey families, who occupied this tract known as "Manlove's Discovery and "Gray's Adventure" since the second quarter of the eighteenth century. The current house was probably built during the ownership of Levin Littleton Waters after his marriage to Elizabeth R. W. Hyland on May 30, 1827. In 1850, a commission was established to divide Levin L. Waters' land holdings, and Lot No. 1, consisting of the house and 110 acres, was apportioned to Levin L. Waters, Jr. (WP 2/147).

By the time of the 1877 county atlas, Levin L. Waters, Jr. ~~was the~~ Somerset County Clerk of Court and owned 315 acres. His will was proved on April 12, 1912, and the fourth item states his sisters, Emily R. Waters and Eliza W. Waters, would receive the residue of his estate. Eliza Waters Hart transferred the property to her husband through her will of January, 1940, and her husband sold Beechwood to the American Legion Post, No. 94 (174/488).

Since the house was purchased by the American Legion Post, the ^{dwelling} ~~house~~ has undergone several alterations including a large meeting room addition on the west side and a thorough interior renovation. The south (front) elevation still retains its gable front orientation. Unusual to Beechwood is its pedimented entrance which echoes the gable front of the main house.

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. S-26

Magi No. 2000264410

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Beechwood

and/or common

2. Location

street & number North side of Route 388 not for publication

city, town Princess Anne X vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| <u> </u> district | <u> </u> public | <u> </u> X occupied | <u> </u> agriculture <u> </u> museum |
| <u> </u> X building(s) | <u> </u> X private | <u> </u> unoccupied | <u> </u> commercial <u> </u> park |
| <u> </u> structure | <u> </u> both | <u> </u> work in progress | <u> </u> educational <u> </u> private residence |
| <u> </u> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <u> </u> entertainment <u> </u> religious |
| <u> </u> object | <u> </u> in process | <u> </u> X yes: restricted | <u> </u> government <u> </u> scientific |
| | <u> </u> being considered | <u> </u> yes: unrestricted | <u> </u> industrial <u> </u> transportation |
| | <u> </u> X not applicable | <u> </u> no | <u> </u> military <u> </u> X other: Meeting hall |

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name American Legion Post

street & number Beechwood Estate telephone no.:

city, town Princess Anne state and zip code Maryland 21853

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk of Court liber

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio

city, town Princess Anne state MD. 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date 1967 federal X state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD 21401

7. Description

Survey No. S-26

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Beechwood Description

Beechwood stands at the end of a long entrance lane on the eastern edge of Princess Anne, Somerset County, Maryland. Now converted to an American Legion Post headquarters, the two-story nineteenth-century frame house faces south with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Erected during the second quarter of the nineteenth century, Beechwood is supported by an infilled brick pier foundation and is completely covered with aluminum siding. The medium pitched asphalt shingle roof has a pedimented front. Attached to the west side of the house is a modern, flat-roofed meeting hall addition. An American Legion cemetery is located east of the post headquarters.

The south (main) elevation is an uneven three-bay facade which is covered on the first floor by an enclosed porch. Distinguishing the entrance bay is a projecting one-bay gabled pavilion that mirrors the gable front of the main block. Lighting the second floor are three six over six sash windows, and a smaller six over six sash window pierces the gable front.

The east side of the house has a shorter two-story, two-bay addition that extends on a perpendicular axis from the main house. The exterior features, such as the aluminum siding, the six over six sash windows, and the medium pitched asphalt shingle roof remain consistent with the main block.

The north side of the center block is fully covered by a three-story, two-bay, one-room plan wing which is covered on the first floor by various shed additions. An interior end stack rises from the north gable end.

Attached to the west side of the house is a single-story flat roofed meeting hall wing which is supported by a concrete block foundation and covered by a flat roof.

The first floor interior of Beechwood has been thoroughly reworked to accommodate a large hall, a kitchen, a billiard room, and bathrooms. For the most part modern materials were used in remodeling, and any mid nineteenth century woodwork was removed. The second floor was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. S-26

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Significance

The Beechwood estate was the long-time home of the Waters and Elzey families, who occupied this tract known as "Manlove's Discovery" and "Gray's Adventure" since the second quarter of the eighteenth century. The current house was probably built during the ownership of Levin Littleton Waters after his marriage to Elizabeth R.W. Hyland on May 30, 1827. In 1850, a commission was established to divide Levin L. Waters' land holdings, and Lot No. 1, consisting of the house and 110 acres, was apportioned to Levin L. Waters, Jr. (WP 2/147).

By the time of the 1877 county atlas, Levin L. Waters, Jr. was the Somerset County Clerk of Court and owned 315 acres. His will was proved on April 12, 1912, and the fourth item states his sisters, Emily R. Waters and Eliza W. Waters, would receive the residue of his estate. Eliza Waters Hart transferred the property to her husband through her will of January, 1940, and her husband sold Beechwood to the American Legion Post, No. 94.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. S-26

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification _____

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

| | | | |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Touart - Architectural Historian

organization Somerset County Historical Trust

date 1/7/86

street & number 424 N. Somerset Avenue

telephone 651-0077

city or town Princess Anne

state Maryland 21853

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

CHAIN OF TITLE

Beechwood
S-26

174/448

Union Trust Company
Edgar A. Jones, Executors under the will of
William Courtland Hart

to

Oliver T. Beauchamp, Jr. Post No. 94
American Legion, Dept. of MD.

Will Book
F.E.D. 34/208

Elisa Waters Hart

to

1/13/1940

William Courtland Hart
Called Beechwood Farm - (Item #4 in will)

Will Book
T.D. 21/250

Levin L. Waters

to

4/12/1912

Emily R. Waters
Eliza W. Waters
Item #4 - I give, devise and bequeath to my
sisters, Emily R. Waters, and Eliza W. Waters,
all the rest and residue of my property. . .

L.W. 4/633

Levin Woolford
Annie E. Woolford

to

9/27/1856

Levin L. Waters
20 acres

Judicial Record

Commission of Real Estate of Levin L. Waters,
deceased

W.P. 2/147-152

to

May 20, 1850

Levin L. Waters
Lot No. 1 - 110 3/8 acres
"Manlove's Discovery," "Gray's Adventure"

Will Book

Will of Eliza R. W. Waters

5/124

to son

10/13/1846

Levin L. Waters

Will Book

E.B. 23/231

8/1/1815

Will of William G. Waters -
"to my children and executor of my estate"
Elizabeth E. Waters, Levin L. Waters,
Arnold E. Waters, William E. Waters

Levin L. Waters married

Eliza R. W. Hyland
May 30, 1827

Between 1801 and 1806, William G. Waters
and Anne Waters purchased several tracts
of land, beginning with;

N/207

William Waters, Senior

to

5/19/1801

Anne Waters (wife of William Gilliss Waters)
B 5. . ."all those two tracts of land one
called Manloves Discovery, containing 250
acres and the other called Grey's Adventure
containing 110 acres

N/209

William Gilliss Waters and Anne Waters

to

5/19/1801

William Waters, Senior
B 5 - Manloves Discovery
Gray's Adventure
". . .situate in the County aforesaid on
the south side of a branch of Manokin
River, and above the town of Princess Anne
whereon Mrs. Elizabeth Elzey now lives and
formerly the property of said Anne Water's
father, Robert Elzey

Q/166

George Wilson Jackson

9/11/1806

to

William Gilliss Waters
"Part of Beckford. . ." 4 acres

Q/402

William Jones

to

9/19/1806

William Gilliss Waters
1st . . .a tract of land called "Friend's
Advice - 335 acres"

2nd . . . "second tract of land called
'Key' containing 11 acres."

3rd . . . "third tract called 'Kilmanum' containing
147 acres"

--\$10.00 per acre--

1798 Tax Assessment - Elizabeth Elzey

1 Dwelling house 30 by 26 feet wood one story - 7 windows 3 feet
8 inches long 2 feet 4 inches wide 1 window 3 feet long 21 inches
wide out of repair. 1 carriage house 16 feet square - 1 stable
20 by 12 feet 1 hen house 15 by 8 feet.

Tax Assessment on Lands -

1 barn 22 feet square - 1 corn house 26 by 10 feet - 1 quarter 14
by 22 feet, 1 quarter 14 by 12 feet, wood - 1 quarter 12 feet
square - 1 quarter 12 by 10 feet wood.

Manloves Discovery - 250 acres

Gray's Adventure - 110 acres

B/261-262

William Gray

to

5/22/1759

Robert Elzey

to 30..0..0 - "Gray's Adventure" - 110 A.

Will Book

Will of Alice Ellis

E.B. 9/210

to nephew Robert Elzey ". . . all my land
lying on the head of Manokin called
'Manloves Discovery' (250 acres)"

1/11/1739

Samuel Worthington married Alice Elzey Ellis

E.B. 9/62

Will of Samuel Worthington
to wife all residue of my estate -
(wife unnamed)

6/19/1717

6/231

Thomas Manlove of Sussex Cotn ye territory
of Pennsylvania and Jane his wife

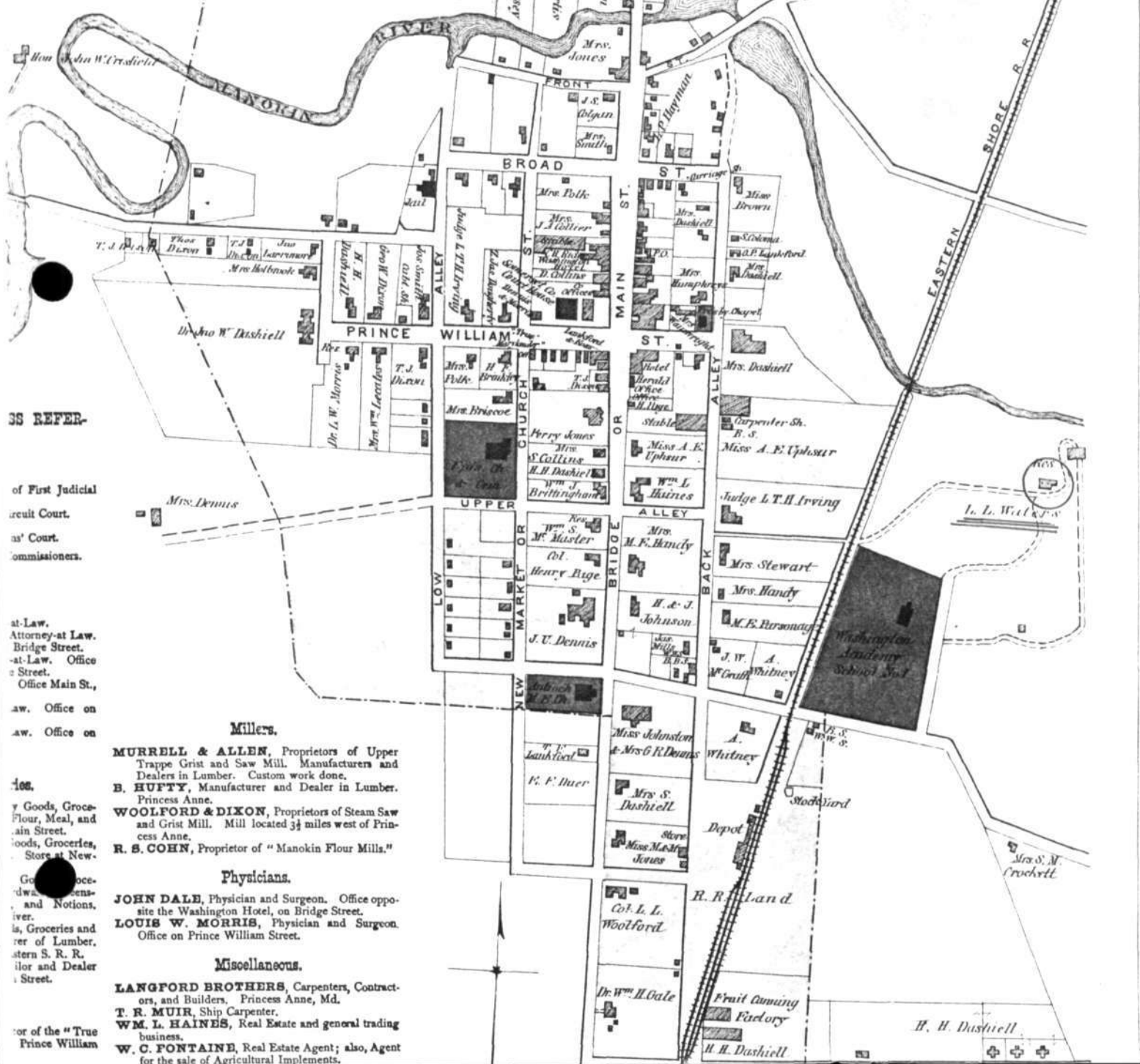
8/8/1694

to

Samuel Worthington - of the County of Somerset
and Province of Maryland
"13,750 lbs. of tobacco in cask"
"Manloves Discover" 250 acres

PRINCESS ANNE

SOMERSET CO.



SS REFER-

of First Judicial
ircuit Court.
as' Court.
ommissioners.

at-Law.
Attorney-at Law.
Bridge Street.
at-Law. Office
Street.
Office Main St.,
aw. Office on
aw. Office on

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Flour, Meal, and
ain Street.
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Store at New.

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rer of Lumber.
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ilior and Dealer
Street.

or of the "True
Prince William

Millers.
MURRELL & ALLEN, Proprietors of Upper
Trappe Grist and Saw Mill. Manufacturers and
Dealers in Lumber. Custom work done.
B. HUFFY, Manufacturer and Dealer in Lumber.
Princess Anne.
WOOLFORD & DIXON, Proprietors of Steam Saw
and Grist Mill. Mill located 3 1/2 miles west of Prin-
cess Anne.
R. S. COHN, Proprietor of "Manokin Flour Mills."

Physicians.
JOHN DALE, Physician and Surgeon. Office oppo-
site the Washington Hotel, on Bridge Street.
LOUIS W. MORRIS, Physician and Surgeon.
Office on Prince William Street.

Miscellaneous.
LANGFORD BROTHERS, Carpenters, Contract-
ors, and Builders. Princess Anne, Md.
T. R. MUIR, Ship Carpenter.
WM. L. HAINES, Real Estate and general trading
business.
W. C. FONTAINE, Real Estate Agent; also, Agent
for the sale of Agricultural Implements.

S-26

Beechwood

30782 West Post Office Road (MD 388), Princess Anne

Lake, Griffing & Stevenson (1877) Atlas of Wicomico, Worcester, & Somerset Counties, Maryland.

District 1, Princess Anne



Princess Anne detail



S-26
 Beechwood
 30782 West Post Office Road (MD 388), Princess Anne
 Princess Anne Quad, 1972



Tax Maps 15 & 16, p. 26 (Map 16)

National Web Map Service 6" Orthophoto Map, 2010





S-26
Beechwood
Princess Anne, MD Quadrangle, 1972



Beechwood

S-26

Princess Anne vicinity, Somerset Co., Md.

South Elevation

1/86, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Beechwood

S-26

Princess Anne vicinity, Somerset Co., Md.

North Elevation

1/86, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./Md. Historical Trust

2000265110

| 1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Somerset TOWN Princess Anne VICINITY S-26 STREET NO. West Post Office Road ORIGINAL OWNER Waters Family ORIGINAL USE Dwelling PRESENT OWNER American Legion PRESENT USE Clubhouse WALL CONSTRUCTION Clapboard NO. OF STORIES 2½ | | HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY | |
|--|--|---|--|
| | | 2. NAME Beechwood DATE OR PERIOD c. 1750 STYLE Colonial ARCHITECT BUILDER | |
| | | 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE | |
| 4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC No | | | |
| <p>This house has been so altered as to appear almost unrecognizable. Most of the windows are 6/6 and there have been many modern additions. The front of the old house is now obscured by a 3 bay pedimented gable front of uncertain age. There are many other additions which obscure the remains of the original house. This house was also known as Manlove's Discovery.</p> <p>This house contains many of the old furnishings from Almodington, including the dining room mirror which completes the panelling now in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.</p> | | | |
| 5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior | | | |
| 6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) | | | |
| 7. PHOTOGRAPH | | | |
| 8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. | | 9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Paul A. Brinkman 1/8/67 DATE OF RECORD | |



S-26

Beechwood - Somerset

Photographed by
DANIEL C. CHURCH